Ship building and repairing industry

2342. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have proposed new initiatives to support the floundering domestic ship building and repair industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new initiatives would boost the morale of ship owners; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) There is already a ship building subsidy scheme providing 30% of subsidy of the price of vessels for construction by Indian Shipyards. In case of domestic orders, vessels have to be ocean going merchant vessels of 80 metre length and above and order have to be obtained on Global Tender basis and for export orders, vessels can be of any type or size and can be either on Global Tender basis or on negotiated basis. The scheme was extended by Government to all shipyards including private sector shipyards on 25th October, 2002. Prior to that the scheme was applicable only to the Central Public Sector shipyards.

(c) and (d) The ship building subsidy scheme will make the Indian ship building industry more competitive, which is likely to boost the morale of the ship owners as the ship owners would be in a position to get the ships built at competitive prices at Indian yards and the dependence on foreign yards is likely to be reduced.

Objections to the Sethusamudram Project

2343. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are strong protests and objections to the present proposal-Sethusamudram Project on the ground of its non use for the benefit of the project area besides being detrimental to the interest of the public particularly fishermen from in and around Rameswaram;